

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art. Claims 3, 10 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 9, 15 and 16 have been amended. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16 and 18-21 are presented for examination.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Specification because of informalities. Applicant has amended the Specification to address the objection in the present Office Action, as well as the objection in the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 10, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 10 and 17, respectively. Claims 3, 10 and 17 have been canceled. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8 and 15 and claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-14, 16 and 18-21 that depend from them, are now in condition for allowance, and requests allowance of said claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 - 9, 12 - 16, and 19 - 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamayo et al., U.S. Patent Application No.

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2002/0083067 (hereinafter referred to as "Tamayo") in view of Biffar, U.S. Patent No. 6,397,212 (hereinafter referred to as "Biffar"). As discussed above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 to include the indicated allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8 and 15, and claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12-14, 16, and 19-21 that depend from them are patentable over the combination of Tamayo and Biffar, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 11, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamayo and Biffar in view of Feldman (Feldman, S. The Answer Machine. The Magazine for Database Professionals, Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2000, Page 58.) As discussed above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 to include the indicated allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 4, 11 and 18, which depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 15, are patentable over the combination of Tamayo, Biffar and Feldman, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Arlen M. Hartounian at (408) 720-8300.

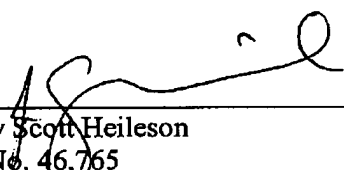
Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____

9/14/04



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